GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1691
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2002
EXPANSION OF PUBLIC BROADCASTING NETWORK
BASUDEB ACHARIA;SUBODH MOHITE

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to enact legislation to enable the public broadcaster to get terrestrial rights to all major national and international events especially sports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Prasar Bharati has examined the report of N.R. Narayana Murthy Committee;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government on the recommendations of the Committee?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) & (b): No Sir. However, the Communication Convergence Bill, 2001,introduced in Lok Sabha on 31.8.2001, has a provision to the effect that national or international events of general public interest, notified by Government in advance, shall have to be carried on the network of public service broadcaster as well. The Communications Commission shall,however, determine well in advance of such event, the principles and terms for the access to the network of public service broadcaster.

(c), (d) & (e): The recommendations of the Narayana Murthy Committeeinter-alia, relate to mission and objective for Prasar Bharati, accountability and structures of Prasar Bharati, financing and funding mechanism, channelpositioning, programming content and production, restructuring of transmission and engineering services, improvement in marketing, human resource development and exploitation of new technologies and includes staffing pattern of Prasar Bharati. The recommendations have been endorsed by the Prasar Bharati Board and measures are being taken by them to implement the recommendations within their competence.